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and giving a list of firms licensed, under the regulations of the Public Health Service, to manufacture arsphenamine and neo-arsphenamine. This circular letter, addressed to medical officers of the United States Public Health Service and others concerned, is printed below:

Your attention is invited to the extensive exploitation, through advertisements in professional journals and otherwise, of various arsenic preparations which are not related to the arsphenamine group. The preparations referred to are sold with claims in regard to their value in the treatment of syphilis which are unwarranted.

In the opinion of this office it is in the interest of all concerned that the subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intravenous use of arsenic in the treatment of syphilis be confined to preparations of the arsphenamine group, as these agents are of established value and are produced under the regulations of the Public Health Service. The following firms are now licensed for the manufacture of arsphenamine and neo-arsphenamine: Dermatological Research Laboratories, 1720 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, Pa.; H. A. Metz Laboratories, 122 Hudson Street, New York, N. Y.; Diarsenol Co., Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.; Takamine Laboratories, Clifton, N. J.

The Lowy Laboratory, of Newark, N. J., has been granted a license to prepare a stable solution of arsphenamine.

It is not the desire of the Bureau to limit clinicians in the choice of agents of recognized worth, but in the case of arsenic preparations, not members of the arsphenamine group, the available evidence indicates that their routine use is inadvisable in the treatment of syphilis. If it is desired to use any of these preparations in a purely experimental way, previous authority from the Bureau should be secured. Applications for this authority should be accompanied by a statement as to the composition of the drug, including the structural formula and the reason for its use. All information available on the value of the preparation should be forwarded.

Since this letter was issued, the following three additional licensed manufacturers of arsphenamine products have been included: E. R. Squibb & Sons, New Brunswick, N. J.; Farbwerke Hoechst, vorm. Meister Lucius & Bruening, Hoechst-am-Main, Germany; Poulenc Frères, 92 Rue Vieille-du-Temple, Paris, France.

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### POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE.

In the Public Health Reports for May 13, 1921, announcement was made in regard to the tentative plans for holding a public health institute in Washington, D. C., during November, 1921. After this institute had been announced, several conferences were held between Service officers and officials of the American Public Health Association, and it has now been definitely decided that the proposed Service institute in Washington during November be indefinitely postponed.

This action was taken for the reason that the Public Health Service desires to cooperate in every way possible with the American Public Health Association in making a great success of their semicentennial meeting which takes place in New York City, November 14-18, 1921.

In connection with this annual meeting of the American Public Health Association it is planned by the Association to provide for certain clinic demonstrations and possibly a health exhibit. It was felt to be inadvisable to hold the Service institute in Washington either immediately preceding or following the meeting of the American Public Health Association on account of the length of time required to attend both the institute and the Association's annual meeting.

### **DAMAGES AWARDED FOR ILLNESS RESULTING FROM CARELESSNESS IN BOTTLING SOFT DRINK.<sup>1</sup>**

The Court of Appeals of Alabama has affirmed a judgment awarding damages to a person who was made ill by drinking Coca-Cola.

The defendant bottled Coca-Cola and sold the same to retailers. The plaintiff bought a bottle of Coca-Cola from a retailer, and after drinking the beverage became ill. The plaintiff alleged that a part of a rat or a mouse had been bottled with the Coca-Cola, and averred that the defendant had been negligent in the conduct of its business. Judgment was entered for the plaintiff in the lower court in the sum of \$500, and this judgment was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

### **DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED JUNE 18, 1921.**

*Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended June 18, 1921, and corresponding week, 1920. (From the "Weekly Health Index," June 21, 1921, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)*

	Week ended June 18, 1921.	Corresponding week, 1920.
Policies in force.....	46, 932, 585	44, 096, 228
Number of death claims.....	7, 583	7, 823
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force.....	8.4	9.3

<sup>1</sup>Coca-Cola Bottling Co. v. Barksdale, 88 South. 36